

Governor Daniels' Full-Day Kindergarten Plan

- ❖ The Governor is committed to working with the legislature to implement full-day kindergarten in the fall of 2007. This is a program that Hoosiers have wanted for many years. According to a recent Indiana University survey, 75% of Hoosiers want the state to implement FDK.
- ❖ **FDK will be VOLUNTARY for families**, mandatory for school corporations to offer, and should be paid for through the regular school funding formula.
- ❖ Based on practical concerns of educators (such as the need to add classrooms, hire new teachers and adjust curriculum) and fiscal considerations, the Governor has proposed that **FDK will be rolled out in a front-loaded implementation**.
 - Next fall, all children who are of kindergarten age and are eligible for free or reduced price lunch (about 33,000) will be offered FDK, regardless of where they live.
 - By August of 2008, all school corporations with higher-than-median populations of free and reduced price lunch eligible students will offer FDK to all students.
 - By August of 2009, all school corporations will offer FDK to all students.
 - This plan ensures FDK goes first to at-risk students who most need it and who research has shown benefit from it most.
 - The Governor advocates a one-time grant to schools for costs from August through December, before they would normally receive state funds for new students, which will total around \$25 million.
 - To address the fact that school corporations in Indiana bear the cost of school facilities, corporations that do not have sufficient classroom space should have the option to arrange to use other appropriate space in their community to provide FDK, such as YMCAs or community centers.
- ❖ **Full day K is not babysitting**. All students must learn to read by grade three to successfully continue and complete school. FDK provides the foundation, particularly for at-risk children, to arrive at first grade with the same level of skills as children from more fortunate families. It will be taught by fully-certified Indiana teachers.
- ❖ **Research has shown:**
 - "Through at least Grade 2, full-day students generally out-perform half-day students with respect to standardized tests, grades, and the need for special education and grade retention. Although FDK programs are often implemented to shrink achievement gaps, all groups of students benefit academically from FDK." (Indiana University's Center on Evaluation and Education Policy)

- “Children who participated in full-day kindergarten made statistically significant gains in both reading and mathematics when compared to children who participated in half-day programs.” (Education Commission of the States)
- After adjusting for gain score differences associated with race, poverty status, fall achievement level, class size and presence of an aid, the positive effect associated with FDK programs represents a reading gain score of 32%. (National Center for Education Statistics, US Department of Education)
- ❖ While some people point to research that says the positive effects of FDK wear off by third grade, the Governor believes that is NOT a reason to not implement FDK, but is a reason to ensure the gains are sustained in grades 1-3. Steps that can and should be taken to help ensure the gains continue are:
 - First, DOE should conduct a longitudinal study of the effects of FDK on future academic performance, as well as other benefits such as fewer and more appropriate special ed referrals.
 - FDK teachers should use only scientifically-proven methods to teach reading,
 - DOE and school corporations should prioritize the use of current professional development dollars to ensure that teachers are proficient in these methods, as well as using student performance data to drive and alter classroom instruction,
 - Age-appropriate assessments (NOT ISTEP-style high-stakes tests) should be made available to FDK teachers to help track student progress and address problems in reading skills, and teachers should be trained to best utilize these tools.
- ❖ **Cost of FDK implementation.** Estimates are based on today’s school funding formula under which school corporations pay a portion of the cost. Costs shown are in million of dollars.

School Year	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
State	\$49	\$95	\$175	\$231	\$255
Local	\$5	\$9	\$11	\$10	\$5
Total	\$54	\$104	\$186	\$241	\$260

- ❖ Some have asked whether the state paying for FDK will jeopardize federal Title I funds that some school corporations currently use to pay for FDK for some students. Title I funds are allocated to the state based on U.S. Census poverty data, which will not change because the state pays for FDK. Title I allocations to school corporations will remain the same, and in fact will be freed up so that schools can use them in other ways, such as teacher professional development, hiring new teachers, improving curriculum or adding preschool programs.